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United Nations Forum on Forests

Report on the eleventh session (19 April 2013 and 4 to 15 May 2015)

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the international arrangement on "The forests we want: beyond 2015"

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests:

Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the international arrangement on "The forests we want: beyond 2015"

We, the Ministers responsible for forests, gathered at the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, have adopted the following declaration:

1. We stress the vital role and significant contribution of all types of forests and of trees outside forests in achieving sustainable development, including economic development, social development and environmental protection.

2. We also stress that over 1.6 billion people depend on forests for subsistence, livelihoods, employment and income generation, and recognize that forests provide a wide range of goods and services, which create opportunities to address many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges.

3. We underscore that forests and sustainable forest management provide multiple benefits for the lives and well-being of people across the planet, recognizing the importance of living well in harmony with nature.

4. We reaffirm our strong commitment to forests and the sustainable management of all types of forests. The sustainable management of all types of forests is vital to facilitate transformative change and address major challenges, such as poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable livelihoods, food security and nutrition, gender equality, cultural and spiritual values, health, water, energy production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification, the reduction of dust and sand storms, biodiversity conservation, sustainable soil and land management, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction.

5. We are deeply concerned about the continued deforestation and degradation of forests in many regions and underscore the need to reverse this trend.

6. We stress the need to continue to promote a common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management and to continue to cooperate internationally and bilaterally to promote sustainable forest management and

address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including by strengthening forest governance through, inter alia, promoting secure land tenure rights and stakeholder participation.

7. We welcome efforts by countries and stakeholders to advance the sustainable management of all types of forests, including the role of collective action by indigenous and local communities and community-based sustainable forest management.

8. We also underscore the essential role of major groups and other stakeholders in achieving the global objectives on forests.

9. We recognize that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate, plays a vital role in addressing challenges and issues relating to forests in a holistic and integrated manner and in promoting policy coordination and cooperation to achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside of forests. We encourage other forest-related forums, initiatives and processes to cooperate with the Forum to achieve sustainable forest management.

10. We recognize the value of the Forum as a policy forum for the promotion of sustainable forest management and decide on the continuation of the international arrangement on forests, emphasizing the need to use the potential of the Forum efficiently and to contribute to cooperation and synergies.

11. We welcome forest-related developments in other forums, in particular the Rio conventions,[1] their continued contribution to sustainable forest management and the importance of cooperation and synergies between these forums and the international arrangement on forests.

12. We affirm that the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 should play a key role in promoting the achievement of forest-related sustainable development goals and targets that will be considered for adoption at the United Nations summit in September 2015.

13. We underscore the need to accelerate efforts at all levels to achieve the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 and the need to establish a stronger, more effective and solid arrangement for the period 2015 to 2030.

14. We, the Ministers responsible for forests commit ourselves:

(a) To implement sustainable forest management as defined in the non-legally-binding instrument on all types of forests, taking into account different visions, approaches, models and tools, including by strengthening the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and by taking action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels to achieve the global objectives on forests;

(b) To affirm our commitment to a stronger and more effective post-2015 international arrangement on forests with a view to providing leadership to promote the vital significance of forests in the global sustainable development agenda, enhancing the implementation of sustainable forest management, advancing forest

[1] The Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

policy dialogue, including with major groups, and fostering collaboration, cooperation and synergies across all forest-related organizations, conventions and other processes;

(c) To promote the integration of sustainable forest management and the commitments contained in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests into our poverty reduction strategies, national sustainable development strategies and sectoral policies, and its synergistic implementation with other forest-related initiatives;

(d) To support the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as a strategy for improving coherence and synergy on forest issues at all levels and to promote the integration of sustainable forest management into the strategies and programmes of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, as appropriate;

(e) To adopt cross-sectoral approaches and foster collaboration to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a coherent and coordinated way and to increase the valuation and recognition of the full value of forest goods and services;

(f) To review and, as needed, in accordance with national legislation, policies and priorities, improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, create an enabling environment for forest investment and combat and eradicate illegal practices, as well as to promote secure land tenure;

(g) To continue to tackle deforestation and forest degradation and to promote the trade in forest products from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests;

(h) To promote the sustainable management of all types of forests, including by:

(i) Stressing the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests and taking steps to enhance the ability of countries to access and effectively employ the forest-related funds, ensuring better coordination across the variety of existing and emerging forest financing instruments and mechanisms and the use of such financing in line with the principles of aid effectiveness;

(ii) Continuing to enhance capacity-building, including the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technology on mutually agreed terms;

(iii) Strengthening the international arrangement on forests and its components to ensure that they are able to perform their functions effectively;

(i) To strengthen coordination and collaboration on all issues relating to forests and to promote complementarity and coherence between the international arrangement on forests and other forest-related and cross-sectoral processes;

(j) To fully engage all stakeholders in the work of the international arrangement on forests;

(k) To strengthen national monitoring, assessment and reporting in countries and the ability of the international arrangement on forests to assist countries in this endeavour with regard to achieving the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, including implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the global objectives on forests and the achievement of forest-related sustainable development goals and targets which will be considered for adoption at the United Nations summit in September 2015.

15. We invite:

(a) The third International Conference on Financing for Development to give appropriate consideration to the issue of financing for forests and sustainable forest management as one of the priorities;

(b) Forum members, financing institutions and the private sector to aim to ensure that investments and development finance take appropriate account of the role of forests in poverty eradication and sustainable development and to give financing for sustainable forest management greater priority and increased relevance, including through the recognition of the public goods and services that forests deliver;

(c) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider the importance of forests and sustainable forest management in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, consistent with its mandate;

(d) The Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider outputs of the future international arrangement on forests, consistent with their mandates, and also invite their secretariats to continue to actively participate, as appropriate, in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as well as to continue their involvement in the work of the Forum and the Partnership;

(e) The existing and emerging forest-related financing initiatives, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, consistent with their mandates;

(f) The above-mentioned forums and conferences and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda to consider the present declaration to be the contribution of the Forum to the outcomes of those events, and in this regard request the Secretary-General to officially submit this declaration to those entities.

16. We resolve to meet again to further strengthen the Forum, to review progress on the implementation of the post-2015 international arrangement on forests and to explore options to further strengthen sustainable forest management at all levels.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, by which it established the international arrangement on forests,

Recalling also the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] and recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[3]

Recalling further its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006 and United Nations Forum on Forests resolution 10/2 of 19 April 2013,[4] providing for the review in 2015 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including its scope and its preparatory process,

Recognizing the achievements of the international arrangement on forests since its inception, in particular the adoption by the General Assembly of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests[5] adopted by the Forum, as well as the contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, while stressing the continued challenges of and the need to strengthen the international arrangement on forests and to continue efforts to contribute to the promotion and implementation of sustainable forest management,

Acknowledging the progress made by countries and stakeholders towards sustainable forest management, including the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its global objectives on forests at the local, national, regional and international levels, taking into account different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development,

Welcoming the significant forest-related developments in other forums, in particular in the context of the Rio conventions, their continued contribution to sustainable forest management and the importance of cooperation and synergies between these forums and the international arrangement on forests,

Welcoming also the recognition given to forests and sustainable forest management by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals in its proposed sustainable development goals and associated targets, and emphasizing the economic, social and environmental contributions of all types of forests to the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting the contributions made by countries, organizations and other stakeholders to the review of the international arrangement on forests, including the views submitted by Member States of the Forum and major groups, the reports of the independent assessment of the international arrangement on forests, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests, and the initiatives hosted by China, Nepal and Switzerland,

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 22* (E/2013/42), chap. I, sect. B.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 62/98, annex.

Stressing the need to strengthen the capacity of the international arrangement on forests to foster coherence on forest-related policies, catalyse the implementation of, and financing for, sustainable forest management, and promote coordination and collaboration on forest issues at all levels, as well as coherence between the international arrangement on forests and the post-2015 development agenda,

1. International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

1. *Decides*:

(a) To strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030;

(b) That the international arrangement on forests is composed of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its Member States, the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(c) That the international arrangement on forests involves as partners interested international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders;

(d) That the objectives of the international arrangement on forests are to:

(i) Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(ii) Enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the post-2015 development agenda;

(iii) Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;

(iv) Foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;

(v) Support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to achieve sustainable forest management;

(e) To strengthen long-term political commitment to the achievement of the objectives listed in paragraph 1 (d) of the present resolution;

(f) That the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 should operate in a transparent, effective, efficient and accountable manner, and should provide added value and contribute to enhanced coherence, cooperation and synergies with respect to other forest-related agreements, processes and initiatives;

2. *Emphasizes* that the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 should be achieved through the actions, individually and collectively, of Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders;

II. United Nations Forum on Forests beyond 2015

3. *Decides* that the core functions of the Forum are to:

(a) Provide a coherent, open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner, including through cross-sectoral approaches;

(b) Promote, monitor and assess the implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and mobilize, catalyse and facilitate access to financial, technical and scientific resources to this end;

(c) Promote governance frameworks and enabling conditions at all levels to achieve sustainable forest management;

(d) Promote coherent and collaborative international policy development on issues related to all types of forests;

(e) Strengthen high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of sustainable forest management;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Forum, as set out in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, is a subsidiary body of the Council with universal membership, which operates under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions and reports to the Council and, through the Council, to the General Assembly;

5. *Decides* that the Forum shall continue to operate according to the provisions specified in paragraph 4 (a) to (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 unless otherwise provided in the present resolution;

6. *Also decides* to improve and strengthen the functioning of the Forum beyond 2015 by requesting the Forum to:

(a) Carry out its core functions on the basis of a strategic plan for the period 2017-2030, as defined in section XI of the present resolution;

(b) Restructure its sessions and enhance its intersessional work to maximize the impact and relevance of its work, including by fostering an exchange of experiences and lessons learned among countries, regional, subregional and non-governmental partners and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(c) Hold annual sessions of the Forum for a period of five days;

(d) Convene high-level segments not to exceed two days during sessions of the Forum, as required, to accelerate action towards sustainable forest management and address forest-related global challenges and emerging issues; such segments may include a partnership forum involving the heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and leaders from the private sector, philanthropic and civil society organizations and other major groups;

(e) Enhance the contributions to the work of the Forum by country-led and similar initiatives by ensuring that they directly support the priorities of the Forum as defined in its four-year work programmes and that their outcomes are considered by the Forum, and update the Forum guidelines in this regard;

(f) In line with paragraph 6 (b) of the present resolution, dedicate the odd-year session of the Forum to discussions on implementation and technical advice for the purpose of focusing the attention of Member States on the specific tasks listed below; the summaries of these discussions, including possible proposals, will be reported to the Forum at its subsequent sessions in the even years for further consideration and recommendations. The specific tasks are:

(i) To assess the progress in, and make possible proposals on, the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the Forum, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the strategic plan;

(ii) To assess the progress in, and make possible proposals on, enhancing policy coherence, dialogue and cooperation on forests, fostering synergies in global forest-related processes and strengthening the common international understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management as set out in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(iii) To monitor and assess the work and the performance of the strengthened facilitative process;

(iv) To review and advise on the availability of resources for sustainable forest management funding, including the strengthened facilitative process, and ensure that its operation is consistent with guidelines to be approved by the Forum;

(v) To review and make possible proposals on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund;

(g) In line with paragraph 6 (b) of the present resolution, dedicate the odd-year sessions of the Forum to:

(i) Serve as an opportunity for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to provide technical advice and input to the Forum;

(ii) Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices, including the science-policy interface;

III. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests beyond 2015

7. *Reaffirms* the continued validity and value of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including its global objectives on forests, and emphasizes the need to strengthen and catalyse its implementation at all levels, taking into account forest-related developments since 2007, including developments in the context of the Rio conventions;

8. *Decides* to extend the timeline of the global objectives on forests to 2030, in line with the post-2015 development agenda, and to rename the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests the "United Nations forest instrument", recognizing that the voluntary, non-binding character of the forest instrument, as set out in principle 2 (a) of the instrument, remains unchanged;

9. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it adopt the modifications referred to in paragraph 8 of the present resolution during its seventieth session and not later than December 2015;

10. *Urges* Member States to utilize the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation for implementing sustainable forest management and forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda;

IV. Catalysing financing for implementation

11. *Reiterates* that there is no single solution to address all of the needs in terms of forest financing and that a combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral;

12. *Welcomes* the positive work carried out by the facilitative process to date, and recognizes that it has yet to fulfil its potential as set out in the resolutions contained in the reports of the Forum on the special session of its ninth session[6] and on its ninth session;[7]

13. *Decides*, in order to strengthen and make the facilitative process more effective:

(a) That the name of the facilitative process shall be changed to the "Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network";

(b) To set clear priorities for the strengthened facilitative process in the strategic plan, as described in section XI of the present resolution;

(c) That it should promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, to facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, consistent with their mandates, in order to implement sustainable forest management;

(d) That it should serve as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned from successful projects, building on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests online sourcebook for forest financing;

(e) That it should ensure that special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest cover countries, high-forest cover countries, medium-forest cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds;

(f) To enhance the capacity of the secretariat to effectively and efficiently manage the strengthened facilitative process;

(g) To strengthen collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in implementing the activities of the strengthened facilitative process;

14. *Also decides*, with the aim of strengthening the facilitative process:

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[6] E/2009/118-E/CN.18/2009/2, sect. I.B.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 22* (E/2011/42), chap. I, sect. B.

(a) To request the secretariat, in consultation with the members of the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to make recommendations on ways to further increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation of the strengthened facilitative process and submit them for consideration by the Forum at its session in 2018;

(b) To welcome the report of the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to the Forum on the mobilization of financial resources through the sustainable forest management/REDD-plus incentive programme under the fifth replenishment of the Facility, and invite the secretariat of the Facility to periodically provide information on the mobilization of financial resources and funds that are dedicated to sustainable forest management;

(c) To also welcome the decision taken by the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility at its session in May 2014 to include a sustainable forest management strategy in the sixth replenishment period of the Facility (2014-2018) to support the sustainable management of all types of forests;

(d) To encourage eligible Member States, taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of sustainable forest management, to make full use of the existing potential of the sustainable forest management strategy under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to harness synergies across the focal areas of the Facility in order to further reinforce the importance of sustainable forest management for integrating environmental and developmental aspirations;

(e) To invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility to request the secretariat of the Facility to discuss with the secretariat of the Forum arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the Facility and the Forum to support eligible countries in gaining access to funding for sustainable forest management;

(f) To request the secretariat of the Forum to engage in discussions with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility in order to facilitate collaboration between the Facility and the Forum to support eligible countries in gaining access to funding for sustainable forest management, and to report to the Forum on this issue;

15. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider:

(a) Options for establishing a new focal area on forests during the next replenishment of the Facility and continuing to seek to improve existing forest finance modalities;

(b) Designating among its staff a liaison to serve as a link between the Forum and the Facility, in order facilitate access to funding for sustainable forest management;

V. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

16. *Decides*:

(a) To invite Member States to continue to monitor and assess progress towards implementing sustainable forest management, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the global objectives on forests, and to submit on a voluntary basis national progress reports to the Forum;

(b) To take note of the ongoing efforts by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members and other relevant entities and processes to work jointly to

further streamline and harmonize reporting, reduce reporting burdens and synchronize data collection, taking into account the collaborative forest resources questionnaire developed as part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, in order to foster synergy and coherence;

(c) To request the secretariat of the Forum, in consultation with Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members, and other relevant entities and processes, as well as criteria and indicators processes, to propose for consideration by the Forum at its next session a cycle and a format for national reporting and the enhancement of voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting under the international arrangement on forests as part of the strategic plan referred to in section XI of the present resolution, taking into account and utilizing existing data collection mechanisms;

(d) To request the secretariat of the Forum to continue to make the reports on its sessions, as well as other relevant inputs, available to relevant United Nations bodies and other international forest-related organizations, instruments and intergovernmental processes;

VI. Secretariat of the Forum

17. *Decides* that the secretariat of the Forum:

(a) Should continue:

(i) To service and support the Forum, its Bureau and related intersessional activities, including by organizing and supporting meetings, providing operational and logistical support, and preparing documentation;

(ii) To administer the Forum Trust Fund consistent with guidance provided by the Forum, including regular and transparent reporting;

(iii) To manage the strengthened facilitative process;

(iv) To promote inter-agency collaboration, including by serving as a member of and providing secretariat services to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(v) To provide, upon request, technical support to country-led initiatives and similar initiatives led by international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, and major groups in support of the priorities of the Forum;

(vi) To liaise with and facilitate the participation and involvement of countries, organizations, major groups and other stakeholders in activities of the Forum, including intersessional activities;

(b) Should perform the following additional functions:

(i) Service and support the working group of the Forum, including by organizing and supporting meetings, providing operational and logistical support, and preparing documentation;

(ii) Manage the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and implement its activities in collaboration with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(iii) Promote coherence, coordination and cooperation on forest-related issues, including by liaising with the secretariats of the Rio conventions;

(iv) Work within the United Nations system to support countries in aligning forests and the international arrangement on forests with their considerations on the post-2015 development agenda;

18. *Reaffirms* that the secretariat of the Forum continues to be located at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

19. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it consider strengthening the secretariat of the Forum, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution;

VII. Collaborative Partnership on Forests

20. *Decides* that the core functions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are:

(a) To support the work of the Forum and its member countries;

(b) To provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues;

(c) To enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates;

(d) To promote the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Reaffirms* that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests should continue:

(a) To receive guidance from the Forum and submit coordinated inputs and progress reports to sessions of the Forum;

(b) To operate in an open transparent and flexible manner;

(c) To undertake periodic reviews of its effectiveness;

22. *Encourages* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations:

(a) To strengthen the Partnership by formalizing its working modalities, including through consideration of a multilateral memorandum of understanding, and by developing procedures for its effective functioning and operation;

(b) To identify ways to stimulate broader participation by existing member organizations in its various activities;

(c) To assess its membership and the potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise;

(d) To identify ways to actively involve major groups and other stakeholders in activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(e) To develop a workplan, aligned with the strategic plan referred to in section XI of the present resolution, to identify priorities for collective actions by all of the members of the Partnership or subsets of members and the resource implications of such actions;

(f) To prepare periodic reports on the Partnership activities, achievements and resource allocations suitable for a wide range of audiences, including potential donors;

(g) To further develop and expand its thematic joint initiatives, taking into account the strengths and focuses of the members of the Partnership;

23. *Invites* the governing bodies of member organizations of the Partnership to include in their work programmes dedicated funding to support Partnership activities, as well as budgeted activities supporting the priorities of the Forum as outlined in the strategic plan referred to in section XI of the present resolution, consistent with their mandates;

24. *Calls upon* Member States, as well as other members of the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the work of the Partnership, including by considering dedicated funding for Partnership activities consistent with the respective mandates of Partnership members as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence on forest issues at all levels;

VIII. Regional/subregional involvement

25. *Requests* the Forum to strengthen its collaboration with relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes in order to facilitate the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including the achievement of its global objectives on forests, as well as to facilitate their inputs to sessions of the Forum;

26. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum to consult with relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes on means to enhance collaboration between them and the Forum, including regarding the implementation of the strategic plan and the quadrennial programmes of work referred to in section XI of the present resolution;

27. *Invites* relevant regional and subregional mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes in a position to do so to consider, consistent with their mandates, developing or strengthening programmes on sustainable forest management, including facilitating the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and relevant aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as to provide coordinated inputs and recommendations to sessions of the Forum;

28. *Invites* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote sustainable forest management while seeking to avoid fragmentation;

IX. Involvement of major groups and other stakeholders

29. *Recognizes* the importance of the continued and enhanced participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Forum and its intersessional activities;

30. *Decides*, in this regard, that the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 16 of General Assembly resolution 67/290 apply mutatis mutandis to the Forum in view of the existing modalities and practices of the Forum;

31. *Invites* major groups and other stakeholders to enhance their contributions to the work of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015;

32. *Invites* Member States to consider enhancing the participation and contributions of major group and other stakeholder representatives in country-led initiatives;

33. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum to promote the involvement of major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the Forum, in particular leaders from the private and non-governmental sectors, including forest industries, local communities and philanthropic organizations, and enhance the interaction of the Forum with such stakeholders;

X. International arrangement on forests and the post-2015 development agenda

34. *Stresses* the need to ensure coherence and consistency between the international arrangement on forests and the post-2015 development agenda as well as with multilateral forest-related agreements;

35. *Decides* that the Forum should offer to contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, including its forest-related goals and targets;

36. *Affirms* that the Forum should also offer to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

37. *Invites* the Forum to consider, in the context of its strategic plan, its role in and contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

XI. Strategic plan

38. *Decides* that the Forum should develop a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components;

39. *Also decides* that the plan should be aligned with the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and should incorporate a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests and the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account significant forest-related developments in other forums, as well as identify the roles of different actors and the framework for reviewing implementation, and outline a communication strategy to raise awareness of the work of the arrangement;

40. *Requests* the Forum to operationalize the strategic plan through quadrennial programmes of work that set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with the period 2017-2020;

XII. Review of the international arrangement on forests

41. *Requests* the Forum to undertake a midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives in 2024, as well as a final review in 2030, and, on that basis, to submit recommendations to the Council relating to the future course of the arrangement;

42. *Decides* that, in the context of the midterm review in 2024, the Forum could consider:

(a) A full range of options, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the strengthening of the current arrangement and the continuation of the current arrangement;

(b) A full range of financing options, inter alia, the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of the sustainable management of all types of forests;

43. *Notes* that the establishment of a global forest fund could be further considered if there is a consensus to do so at a session of the Forum prior to 2024;

XIII. Follow-up to the eleventh session of the Forum

44. *Decides* that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:

(a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets that will be considered by the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;

(b) The strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, consistent with section XI of the present resolution;

45. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide their views and proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the present resolution as inputs to deliberations;

46. *Decides* to establish a working group of the Forum with a time-bound mandate, for a period of up to two years in 2016 and 2017, to develop proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the present resolution for consideration by the Forum at its special session referred to in paragraph 50 of the present resolution. The working group should:

(a) Operate in accordance with the working modalities of the Forum, as referred to in paragraph 4 of the present resolution;

(b) Elect two Co-Chairs who serve as ex officio members of the Bureau for the special session of the Forum referred in paragraph 50 of the present resolution;

47. *Also decides* that the working group of the Forum shall be convened in one session by 30 March 2017 for up to a total of five working days to develop the proposals referred to in paragraph 44 of the present resolution;

48. *Further decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group to conduct up to two meetings in 2016, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to develop proposals on the matters referred to above for consideration by the working group;

49. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the working group, under the guidance of the Bureau of the special session of the Forum, to also conduct informal consultations as needed, to facilitate a successful outcome for the working group;

50. *Decides* to hold a special session in a half-day meeting immediately upon the adjournment of the final session of the working group, to consider the proposals of the working group consistent with paragraph 44 of the present resolution;

51. *Requests* the Forum to hold its next session in 2017;

XIV. Resources for the implementation of the present resolution

52. *Recognizes* that the responsibilities of the secretariat of the Forum have changed considerably in their scope and complexity over the years, including in relation to servicing Forum processes and providing substantive and technical support to developing countries;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the secretariat of the Forum;

54. *Urges* donor Governments and organizations, including financial institutions, and others in a position to do so, to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum Trust Fund;

55. *Calls upon* donor countries and international organizations, including financial institutions, and others in a position to do so, to provide financial support to the Forum Trust Fund in order to support the participation of developing countries, according priority to least developed countries, African States, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with paragraph 40 of the resolution contained in the report of the Forum on its ninth session,[6] in the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group, the working group of the Forum and the sessions of the Forum;

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Forum at its session in 2018 on the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 11/1
Documentation considered by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session

At its 10th meeting, on 15 May 2015, the United Nations Forum on Forests decided to take note of the following documents considered at its eleventh session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, including Secretary-General conclusions and recommendations (E/CN.18/2015/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2015/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels (E/CN.18/2015/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5).

Chapter II

Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests

(a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options

(b) Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

(c) Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals

4. The Forum considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 10th meetings, on 4, 6 and 15 May 2015. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/10);

(b) Report on the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/11);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, including Secretary-General conclusions and recommendations (E/CN.18/2015/2);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2015/3);

5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 May, the Forum considered agenda item 3 jointly with item 4 (Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels), item 5 (Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), item 6 (Regional and subregional inputs), item 8 (High-level segment) and item 9 (Forum Trust Fund).

6. At its 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Forum considered agenda item 3 jointly with items 4, 5 and 6, item 7 (Multi-stakeholder dialogue) and item 9.

7. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests, Charles Barber (United States) and Raymond Landveld (Suriname).

9. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the independent consultants of the independent assessment of the international arrangement on forests, Juergen Blaser (Switzerland) and Jorge Illueca (Panama).

10. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 May, a statement was made by Shatrudhwan Pokharel (Nepal) on the major group initiative hosted by Nepal.

Action taken by the Forum

11. At its 5th meeting, on 6 May, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled "International arrangement on forests beyond 2015", contained in document E/CN.18/2015/L.2.

12. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), in which he introduced the draft resolution.

13. At its 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Chair of the Forum introduced the revised draft resolution submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held by Working Group 2, which was contained in an informal paper, in English only.

14. At the same meeting, the Secretary orally corrected the draft resolution.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement of financial implications in connection with the draft resolution.

16. Also at the 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Forum adopted the draft resolution, as orally corrected, (see chap. I, sect. B).

17. At the same meeting, the Forum was informed that the draft resolution would be issued in the official languages as document E/CN.18/2015/L.2/Rev.1.

Chapter III

Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels

18. The Forum considered agenda item 4, jointly with item 3 (Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests), item 5 (Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), item 6 (Regional and subregional inputs), item 8 (High-level segment) and item 9 (Forum Trust Fund), at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 May 2015. At its 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Forum considered agenda item 4 jointly with items 3, 5, 6, 7 (Multi-stakeholder dialogue) and 9. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels (E/CN.18/2015/4).

19. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 May, the Forum heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

20. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 11 to 17.

Chapter IV

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

21. The Forum considered agenda item 5, jointly with item 3 (Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests), item 4 (Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels), item 6 (Regional and subregional inputs), item 8 (High-level segment) and item 9 (Forum Trust Fund), at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 May 2015. At its 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Forum considered agenda item 5 jointly with items 3, 4, 6, 7 (Multi-stakeholder dialogue) and 9. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5);

(b) Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2013 and 2014 (E/CN.18/2015/7);

(c) Letter dated 6 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2015/9);

(d) Note verbale dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2015/12);

(e) Note verbale dated 30 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2015/13);

22. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

23. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

24. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by Wu Zhimin (China) and Peter Besseau (Canada) on the country-led initiative hosted by China; and Christian Küchli (Switzerland) and Anna Stemberg (Switzerland) on the country-led initiative hosted by Switzerland.

Action taken by the Forum

25. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 11 to 17.

Chapter V
Regional and subregional inputs

26. The Forum considered agenda item 6, jointly with item 3 (Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests), item 4 (Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels), item 5 (Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), item 8 (High-level segment) and item 9 (Forum Trust Fund), at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 May 2015. At its 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Forum considered agenda item 6 jointly with items 3, 4, 5, 7 (Multi-stakeholder dialogue) and 9. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5).

27. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

28. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 May 2015, a statement was made by Roman Michalak of the Joint Forestry and Timber Section of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and FAO on the ECE/FAO study on progress towards global objectives on forests and challenges for the region.

Action taken by the Forum

29. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 11 to 17.

Chapter VI
Multi-stakeholder dialogue

30. The Forum considered agenda item 7 at its 4th meeting, on 5 May 2015, and jointly with item 3 (Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests), item 4 (Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels), item 5 (Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), item 6 (Regional and subregional inputs) and item 9 (Forum Trust Fund), at its 10th meeting, on 15 May 2015. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2015/6);

(b) Discussion paper submitted by the major groups on the future of the international arrangement on forests (E/CN.18/2015/6/Add.1);

31. At its 4th meeting, on 5 May, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue among Member States, major groups and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

32. At the same meeting, the Forum held a multi-stakeholder dialogue among Member States, major groups and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, moderated by Lambert Okrah (non-governmental organizations major group).

33. Presentations were made by Joseph Cobbinah, (scientific and technological communities major group); Cécile Ndjebet, (women major group); Peter deMarsh, (farmers and small forest landowners major group); and Olivia Sanchez Badini, (children and youth major group).

34. In the ensuing discussion with the presenters, comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of Nigeria (on behalf of the African States), the United States of America, Switzerland, Malaysia, Sweden, Japan, Cameroon, Senegal, the Republic of Korea, Norway and Finland.

35. A statement was made by the observer for the European Union.

36. A statement was also made by the representative of FAO.

37. Statements were also made by the observer for the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, as well as the representatives of the farmers and small forest landowners major group and the non-governmental organizations major group.

Chapter VII
High-level segment

38. The Forum considered agenda item 8 at its 5th to 9th meetings, on 7, 13 and 14 May 2015. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, including Secretary-General conclusions and recommendations (E/CN.18/2015/2);

(b) Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/10);

(c) Report on the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/11).

39. At the 6th meeting, on 13 May, the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), opened the high-level segment and made a statement.

40. At the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria), addressed the Forum.

41. At the 6th to 9th meetings, on 13 and 14 May, the Forum held its high-level general debate.

42. At its 8th meeting, on 14 May, the Forum held its high-level round table 1 on the topic "Integration of forests in the post-2015 development agenda".

43. At the same meeting, the Forum held its high-level round table 2 on the topic "Renewed commitments to the implementation of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015".

44. At its 9th meeting, on 14 May, the Forum held a high-level dialogue with heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, heads of the regional organizations and representatives of major groups.

Action taken by the Forum

45. At its 5th meeting, on 7 May, the Forum had before it a draft ministerial declaration on the future international arrangement on forests we want (E/CN.18/2015/L.1), submitted by the Chair (Gabon) on the basis of the informal consultations held by Working Group 1.

46. At the same meeting, following the statement by the Chair, statements were made by the representatives of Peru and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

47. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the Secretary of the Forum and a representative of the Forum secretariat.

48. At its 9th meeting, on 14 May, the Forum had before it a revised draft ministerial declaration on the international arrangement on "The forests we want: beyond 2015" (E/CN.18/2015/L.1/Rev.1).

49. At the same meeting, the Chair (Gabon) introduced the revised draft ministerial declaration and informed the Forum that the document had no programme budget implications.

50. Also at the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft ministerial declaration by acclamation (see chap. I, sect. A).

A. High-level general debate

51. The Forum held its high-level general debate at its 6th to 9th meetings, on 13 and 14 May.

52. At its 6th meeting, on 13 May, the Forum heard statements by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Latvia (on behalf of the European Union), Germany, Lithuania, Pakistan, Jamaica, Guinea, Senegal, Zambia, Fiji, the Congo, Madagascar, Ghana, Gabon, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Malaysia, China, Slovakia, Romania, Norway, Sweden and Mongolia.

53. At its 7th meeting, on 13 May, the Forum heard statements by the representatives of Argentina, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines, Spain, Japan, Canada, Turkey, Grenada, Ecuador, France, Finland, Switzerland, Paraguay, Morocco, Samoa, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Italy, the Sudan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Thailand, the United States, Suriname, Viet Nam, Uruguay, India, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, the State of Palestine, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania.

54. At its 8th meeting, on 14 May, upon the proposal of the Chair (Gabon), the Forum continued its high-level general debate and heard the statements by the representatives of Peru (on behalf of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization) and Gabon (on behalf of the Forest Eleven group of tropical rainforest countries).

55. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan and FAO.

56. At its 9th meeting, on 14 May, the Forum continued its high-level general debate and heard statements by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Côte d'Ivoire and Brazil.

57. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of ECE.

58. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries.

59. Also at the 9th meeting, on 14 May, statements in the exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Israel and the State of Palestine.

B. High-level round table 1 on the integration of forests in the post-2015 development agenda

60. At its 8th meeting, on 14 May, the Forum held the high-level round table co-chaired by the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), and the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of Germany, Christian Schmidt.

61. Following the statements by the Co-Chairs, an interactive discussion ensued and statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, the Netherlands, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lithuania, Guinea, Indonesia, China, Gabon, Senegal, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, France, Argentina, Fiji, the Congo, Zambia, Ghana, the United States, Cameroon and Mauritania.

62. A statement was also made by the representative of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

63. The Co-Chairs made concluding remarks.

C. High-level round table 2 on renewed commitments to the implementation of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015

64. Also at its 8th meeting, on 14 May, the Forum held the high-level round table co-chaired by the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), and the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and Head of the Federal Agency for Forestry of the Russian Federation, Ivan Valentik.

65. Following the statements by the Co-Chairs, an interactive discussion ensued and statements were made by the representatives of Zambia, Switzerland, Malaysia, Fiji, the Netherlands, China, Spain, Canada, Guinea, the Czech Republic, Norway, Sweden, Gabon, South Africa, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cameroon, Cambodia and Jamaica.

66. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Central African Forests Commission, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan.

67. A statement was made by the representative of FAO.

68. The Co-Chairs made concluding remarks.

D. High-level dialogue with heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, heads of the regional organizations and representatives of major groups

69. At the 9th meeting, on 14 May, the Chair of the Forum, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), opened the high-level dialogue and made a statement.

70. A statement was also made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

71. In the ensuing dialogue, statements were made by the following heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests: Braulio F. de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat; Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization; Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office; Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programmes, Global Environmental Facility secretariat; Eva Muller, Director, Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, Forestry Department, FAO; John Parrotta, Vice-President, Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led

Initiatives, International Union of Forest Research Organization; Stan Nkwain, Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme; Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Nandhini Iyer Krishna, Programme Officer, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat; Tiffany Hodgson, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat.

72. A statement was also made by Joseph Cobbinah on behalf of the major groups.

73. Comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of Malaysia and Fiji.

74. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Montreal Process.

Chapter VIII
Forum Trust Fund

75. The Forum considered agenda item 9, jointly with item 3 (Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests), item 4 (Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels), item 5 (Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), item 6 (Regional and subregional inputs) and item 8, (High-level segment), at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 May 2015. At its 10th meeting, on 15 May, the Forum considered agenda item 9 jointly with items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Multi-stakeholder dialogue), and 8. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on the Forum Trust Fund (E/CN.18/2015/8).

76. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

77. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 11 to 17.

Chapter IX
Other matters

78. There was no discussion under this item.

Chapter X
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eleventh session

79. The Forum considered agenda item 11 at its 10th meeting, on 15 May 2015. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the draft report on its eleventh session (E/CN.18/2015/L.3).

80. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil made a statement in reference to the ministerial declaration (E/CN.18/2015/L.1/Rev.1) adopted by the Forum at its 9th meeting, on 14 May 2015.[8]

Action taken by the Forum

81. At the 10th meeting, on 15 May 2015, the Rapporteur (Finland) introduced and the Forum adopted the draft report, and entrusted the Rapporteur with its finalization in collaboration with the secretariat, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its 2015 session.

[8] In a letter addressed to the Chair of the Forum dated 15 May 2015, the Chair of the Group of 77 conveyed the reservations of the Group of 77 and China in respect of para. 14(h), subpara. (i) of the Ministerial Declaration (E/CN.18/2015/L.1/Rev.1).

Chapter XI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

82. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its eleventh session in Istanbul, Turkey, on 19 April 2013 and at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 May 2015. The Forum held 10 plenary meetings (1st to 10th). Working Groups 1 and 2 held one formal meeting in parallel on 5 May 2015.

83. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2015, the Chair pro tempore and Vice-Chair of the Forum, Srećko Juričić (Croatia), opened the session.

84. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Forum, Noël Nelson Messone (Gabon), made a statement.

85. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Forum.

86. At the same meeting, the Director of the Forum secretariat made an introductory statement.

87. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General for Forestry of FAO and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; Charles Barber (United States) and Raymond Landveld (Suriname), Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests; Juergen Blaser (Switzerland) and Jorge Illueca (Panama), independent consultants for the independent assessment of the international arrangement on forests; Wu Zhimin (China) and Peter Besseau (Canada), on the country-led initiative hosted by China; and Christian Küchli (Switzerland) and Anna Stemberger (Switzerland) on the country-led initiative hosted by Switzerland.

88. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 May 2015, statements were made by Shatrudhwan Pokharel (Nepal), on the major group initiative hosted by Nepal; Roman Michalak, ECE/FAO Joint Forestry and Timber Section, on the study by those bodies on progress towards global objectives on forests and challenges for the region; and Peter Holmgren, Center for International Forestry Research (also on behalf of the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry), and John Parrotta, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, on the initiative by those bodies on science in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

B. Election of officers

89. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April 2013, the Forum elected, by acclamation, Macharia Kamau (Kenya) as Chair, and Srećko Juričič (Croatia) and Heikki Granholm (Finland) as Vice-Chairs, of its eleventh session.

90. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2015, the Forum elected, by acclamation, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon) as Chair of its eleventh session following the resignation of Macharia Kamau (Kenya), and Vicente Bezerra (Brazil) and Wu Zhimin (China) as Vice-Chairs of its eleventh session.

91. At the same meeting, the Forum appointed Heikki Granholm (Finland) as Rapporteur of the session.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

92. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2015, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda for the session as contained in document E/CN.18/2015/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests:
   (a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options;
   (b) Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;
   (c) Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals.
4. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels.
5. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
6. Regional and subregional inputs.
7. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.
8. High-level segment.
9. Forum Trust Fund.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eleventh session.

93. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Forum approved the proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in an informal paper in English only.

94. Also at the same meeting, the Forum was informed that the Vice-Chairs, Wu Zhimin (China) and Srećko Juričić (Croatia), would serve as Co Chairs of Working Group 1 and that the Vice-Chair, Vicente Bezerra (Brazil), and the Rapporteur, Heikki Granholm (Finland), would serve as Co-Chairs of Working Group 2.

95. The Forum was further informed that Working Group 1 would be responsible for the negotiations on the draft ministerial declaration under agenda item 8 and

Working Group 2 for the negotiations on the draft resolution on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 under items 3 to 7 and 9.

D. Attendance

96. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, with full and equal participation. The list of participants will be issued as document E/CN.18/2015/INF/1.

E. Documentation

97. The documentation considered by the Forum at its eleventh session is set out in the annex to the present report.

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.18/2015/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.18/2015/2	3 (a), 3 (c) and 8	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, including Secretary conclusions and recommendations
E/CN.18/2015/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
E/CN.18/2015/4	4	Report of the Secretary-General on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels
E/CN.18/2015/5	5 and 6	Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs
E/CN.18/2015/6	7	Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue
E/CN.18/2015/6/Add.1	7	Discussion paper submitted by the major groups on the future of the international arrangement on forests
E/CN.18/2015/7	5	Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2013 and 2014
E/CN.18/2015/8	9	Note by the Secretariat on the Forum Trust Fund
E/CN.18/2015/9	5	Letter dated 6 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2015/10	3 (a), 8	Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests
E/CN.18/2015/11	3 (a), 8	Report on the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests
E/CN.18/2015/12	5	Note verbale dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.18/2015/13	5	Note verbale dated 30 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2015/L.1/Rev.1	8	Draft ministerial declaration on the international arrangement on "The forests we want: beyond 2015"
E/CN.18/2015/L.2/Rev.1	3	Draft resolution on the international arrangement on "The forests we want: beyond 2015"
E/CN.18/2015/L.3	11	Draft report on the organization of the session
E/CN.18/2015/INF/1		List of participants

Annex II

Summary by the Chair of the multi-stakeholder dialogue

1. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was held on 5 May 2015. It was opened by the Chair of the Forum at its eleventh session, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon). An introductory presentation was given by the Director of the Forum secretariat, who outlined efforts that had been made to enhance the engagement of major groups in the work of the Forum during the intersessional period, including the strengthening of major groups' networks; the organization of the major group-led initiative on the theme "Sustainable forest management: designing the vehicles for securing the means of implementation", held in Kathmandu from 2 to 6 March 2015; the development by the major groups of submissions in response to the call for views on the future international arrangement on forests; and major groups' participation in the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests.

2. The Chair then invited Lambert Okrah, of the non-governmental organizations major group, to serve as Moderator during the multi-stakeholder dialogue. Mr. Okrah explained that, following presentations by representatives of major groups, the participants would be invited to comment on the recommendations from the major groups about the future international arrangement on forests, as contained in the report of the major group-led initiative (see E/CN.18/2015/13, annex) and the discussion paper submitted by the major groups (E/CN.18/2015/6/Add.1).

3. Joe Cobbinah, of the scientific and technological communities major group, explained that the role of major groups within the Forum included advocacy, bringing diverse perspectives (including those of the marginalized voices) to the Forum, cascading policies down and getting feedback from the ground up, creating awareness of policy decisions and providing an extended platform for the Forum. He then informed the Forum that the Major Groups Partnership on Forests had been established in 2012 to coordinate major groups' inputs to the Forum, build collaboration between and among major groups and facilitate knowledge generation and information-sharing, and for liaison between major groups and the Forum secretariat, Member States and regional processes.

4. Cécile Ndjebet, of the women major group, highlighted the need for a strengthened United Nations body for forests. After outlining their views about the limitations of current arrangements, she said that the major groups proposed a new multi-stakeholder United Nations forest organization, not under the Economic and Social Council, that would address both policy and implementation; deal with forestry issues in a coordinated and holistic manner at the global, regional, national and local levels; be responsible for dialogue at a high political level about the forest-related aspects of the proposed sustainable development goals; coordinate all institutions and mechanisms engaged on forest issues within the United Nations; meet more often than biennially; and have a stronger role in providing input into the use of forest-related climate funds. In addition, the major groups considered that recommendations on forests should be legally binding, that major groups should be part of the governing structure of the new body on forests, and that the new United Nations forest body should serve as the coordinating body of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

5. Peter deMarsh, of the farmers and small forest landowners major group, then made a presentation about a possible global financial mechanism for forests. He explained that existing funds are not designed to meet the specific needs of sustainable forest management. He proposed a fund that would have a catalytic and strategic role in order to fill gaps, complement other funds, leverage funds from other sources and facilitate access to the "big funds", with a particular emphasis on developing capacity. He also said that in order to help justify investment in sustainable forest management, it was important to recognize the full value of forest ecosystem goods and services, the subsistence value of food, fuel and medicine and the value of in-kind investments that were not currently reflected by official national accounting systems.

6. Olivia Sanchez Badini, of the children and youth major group, outlined the challenges facing major groups, individually and collectively. She also summarized the major groups' recommendations for the future international arrangement on forests. Those recommendations included recognizing the Major Groups Partnership on Forests as a legitimate coordinating body for major group involvement, granting the Partnership official permanent observer status in the post-United Nations Forum on Forests process, having major group representation on the governing body of the Forum (or its successor), and reviewing how the Economic and Social Council rules govern major group accreditation and engagement.

7. During the interactive discussion, the participants thanked the major groups for their presentations and discussion paper. Many participants stressed the critical importance of broad and inclusive stakeholder involvement in safeguarding and sustainably managing the world's forests, noting especially the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in supporting the management and conservation of forests. They also urged stronger and more meaningful engagement with major groups, including the private business sector, local authorities, international conservation groups and indigenous representatives, adding that the active, open and transparent participation of all relevant stakeholders needed to be enhanced in the post-2015 international arrangement on forests; they said that this could result in better policy decisions, a wider understanding of the policies and improved implementation by working through major groups' networks and constituencies.

8. The participants welcomed the creation of the Major Groups Partnership on Forests and considered that its role in helping major groups to coordinate their activities and develop joint statements would benefit the future international arrangement on forests. Questions were asked, however, about whether the Partnership required a formal institutional relationship with the Forum in order to be effective; and further clarification was sought on the cost implications and potential sources of funding. It was noted that the Government of Germany had already provided valuable support for the Partnership.

9. To strengthen the engagement of major groups in the work of the Forum, a number of participants said that it would be useful if in future the major groups were invited to make comments on each agenda item, or at the end of each day. Other suggestions were that more countries should invite representatives of major groups to join their national delegations; that major groups should participate as observers during meetings of the Bureau; that major groups should second staff to the Forum secretariat; and that regional meetings should be used to offer further opportunities for engaging major groups. While several participants stressed the

value to the Forum of continuing to be a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, they also asked about opportunities for increased flexibility regarding the participation of major groups under the rules of the Council.

10. There was also discussion about strengthening relationships between the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups. The Partnership agreed that there were important areas where such cooperation would be beneficial, for example, in relation to developing a science-policy interface on forestry and through joint activities. The President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Mike Wingfield, highlighted the fact that the Union's membership included a large number of universities and was therefore closely linked with the children and youth major group, as well as the scientific and technological community major group; in this regard, he highlighted the importance of investment in forestry education and the proposed joint project of the Union and the International Forestry Students' Association on forest education.

Annex III

Summaries by the Chair of the ministerial high-level segment and the Co-Chairs of the high-level round tables

A. Ministerial high-level segment

1. Following an introduction by the Chair, who explained that the theme of the ministerial high-level segment would be "The future international arrangement on forests we want", the President of the Economic and Social Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria), addressed the Forum.

2. In their general statements, country representatives highlighted the vital contribution that forests and trees outside of forests can make to sustainable development, noting their economic, social and environmental benefits as well as their cultural value. Many explained that sustainable forest management can help in addressing such major global challenges as poverty eradication, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and combating desertification, as well as helping to meet food, water and energy needs. A number of countries expressed concern about the under-valuation of forests, saying that the value of non-timber forest products and ecosystem services was often not fully recognized. Concern was also expressed about the urgent need to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including illegal harvesting, mining, urbanization and the increasing demand for land to produce food and other commodities; nevertheless, some countries gave positive examples of action that had been taken to reduce net deforestation and to tackle forest degradation. Meanwhile, several countries stressed the importance of forests to the indigenous and local communities that depend upon them for their livelihoods; the benefits of community-based sustainable forest management and effective stakeholder engagement and participation were also highlighted, as well as the importance of gender equality. In addition, reference was made to the importance of recognizing different visions and approaches to sustainable development, and to the fact that in some countries and regions "Mother Earth" is a common expression used to describe the planet Earth.

3. The non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, with its the global objectives on forests, was highlighted as a key achievement of the United Nations Forum on Forests and several countries explained that the instrument had provided a valuable framework for policy and programme development at the national level. Many representatives said that the international arrangement on forests should be strengthened and in particular stressed the importance of utilizing the arrangement more effectively to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management. Some speakers referred to the need for a strategic plan to identify clear priorities and targets for the future arrangement. There was wide support for the role of the Forum, with its universal membership and its ability to address the challenges facing forests in a holistic manner. It was also noted that the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests had fostered stronger collaboration and cooperation among the key forest-related organizations at the global level. Several countries welcomed efforts to promote a wider understanding of the importance of forests and trees, and their multiple benefits, including through the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests. However, some representatives said that there was insufficient public recognition of these benefits and that the visibility of forests was still too low. A number of representatives said that the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests would continue to provide an

effective framework for sustainable forest management. Some representatives proposed work to develop a legally binding agreement on forests. The importance of adequate means of implementation, including robust financing mechanisms, capacity-building and environmentally sound technologies was emphasized, and the particular challenges facing low forest cover countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries were also highlighted. While some countries reported that financing for sustainable forest management had increased in recent years, others underscored the need for a global forest fund; other suggestions for the financing sustainable forest management included continued development of the facilitative process and making increased efforts to attract private sector investment. Several countries highlighted the importance of having a supportive enabling environment for investment, and the need for effective forest governance. In addition, the need for the Forum to address emerging issues, such as forest landscape restoration, was stressed.

4. Country representatives also emphasized the need to improve cross-sector collaboration at all levels in order to achieve more effective integration between forest policies and related policies, such as agriculture, energy, climate change, biodiversity and water. In addition, a number of representatives highlighted the importance of overcoming fragmentation by securing good coordination between different forest-related processes and funding mechanisms; in this context, several countries described the benefits for sustainable forest management of action taken at the national level in the context, for example, of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)-plus programmes, the European Union Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, and the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Representatives welcomed the forest-related elements of the proposed sustainable development goals and targets, and said that 2015 provided a unique opportunity to integrate forests into the post-2015 development agenda. Many said that it would be important for the ministerial declaration to send a clear message about the global significance of forests to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015, the United Nations summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015, and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held later in 2015.

B. Round table 1: integration of forests in the post-2015 development agenda

5. Round table 1 was co-chaired by the Minister for Forests, Environment and Protection of Natural Resources of Gabon and Chair of the Forum at its eleventh session, Noel Nelson Messone, and the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of Germany, Christian Schmidt.

6. Summing up the interactive discussion, the Co-Chair (Mr. Schmidt) said that it had been extremely useful in highlighting the importance of integrating forests in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as recognizing their multifunctional role in the climate change agenda. During the discussion, participants stressed the need to strengthen the Forum and align it with the post-2015 development agenda. A number of speakers focused on the importance of effective monitoring, assessment, reporting and follow-up processes for forest-related goals, targets and associated indicators, and the potential role of the Forum in this regard. In addition, several participants emphasized the need to broaden the context of forest-related

discussions in order to achieve more effective coordination with other key aspects of sustainable development, such as poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, agricultural policies and food security, as well as integration with national development plans. Speakers also highlighted the critical role that stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, could play in contributing to implementation, for example, through new partnerships for action on the ground. Many speakers highlighted the urgency of securing adequate and predictable resources for implementation, and asked that the Forum send a clear message about the importance of financing sustainable forest management to the third International Conference on Financing for Development and other forthcoming high-level meetings. The Co-Chair concluded his summary by saying that the round table had underscored the importance of adopting a holistic approach to sustainable forest management at all levels.

C. Round table 2: renewed commitments to the implementation of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015

7. The second round table was co-chaired by Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon) and the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and Head of the Federal Agency for Forestry of the Russian Federation, Ivan Valentik.

8. The Co-Chair (Mr. Valentik) summarized the discussion on renewed commitments to the implementation of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, saying that the round table had provided a good opportunity to share experiences on best practices and lessons learned. In emphasizing their countries' commitment to combating deforestation and forest degradation, some participants gave examples of how their forest-related priorities and objectives had been incorporated within broader sustainable development strategies. Meanwhile, a number of participants described ways in which forests in their countries contributed to wider policy objectives, including ecotourism, the promotion of health and well-being and the development of a green economy, and the importance of taking these wider objectives into account when formulating and implementing forest policies. Some speakers pointed out that the full value of forest-related goods and services to their national economies could be much greater than the monetary figures reported by official statistics. Several speakers stressed that, for effective implementation beyond 2015, it would be essential to continue to facilitate capacity-building, training and technology transfer, through South-South cooperation as well as North-South and triangular cooperation. Speakers also highlighted the importance of working in partnership with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and stakeholders, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and the need for adequate resources to strengthen implementation. Reference was also made to the importance of clear land tenure and effective governance arrangements to support implementation. The Co-Chair concluded his summary by emphasizing the importance for the future international arrangement on forests of securing strong political commitment to the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Annex IV

Summary by the Chair of the high-level dialogue with the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, heads of the regional organizations and representatives of major groups

1. The high-level interactive dialogue with the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, heads of the regional organizations and senior representatives of major groups was held on 14 May 2015. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Thomas Gass, delivered opening remarks, welcoming partners to the dialogue and emphasizing that achieving global sustainable forest management required collective action by all stakeholders.

2. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Braulio F.de Souza Dias, said that forests were central to the work of the Convention because of their high biodiversity value, and that this was reflected in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Accordingly, the Convention valued its working relationship with the Forests and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. He added that, at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in November 2016, strategic actions to enhance national implementation through the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, fisheries and forests would be considered.

3. The Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization, Emmanuel Ze Meka, called for sustained funding mechanisms to help support the costs of undertaking projects of the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests at the request of the Forum. He also stressed the economic importance of the timber and wood processing industry for many tropical countries with significant areas of forest. In addition, he outlined the role of the International Tropical Timber Organization in relation to promoting the use of criteria and indicators and developing the collaborative forest resources questionnaire.

4. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Elliott Harris, highlighted the role of UNEP, along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in initiating the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) to support nationally led REDD-plus results-based payment processes. He also referred to the role of UNEP in helping countries to work towards achieving the Bonn Challenge through the restoration of degraded and deforested land. In addition, he said that UNEP had presented an analysis of private sector finance for forests to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Standing Committee on Finance.

5. The Director of Programmes of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Gustavo Fonseca, underscored the relevance of forests to the sustainable development agenda and the need to incorporate forests into national development programmes, as well as the importance of developing partnerships with those outside the forest sector. He then outlined the role of GEF in providing support for

forests through the GEF-5 Sustainable Forest Management/REDD Incentive Mechanism, and now through the GEF-6 Sustainable Forest Management Programme: Strengthened Support for Forests, which promotes an integrated approach at the landscape level.

6. The Director of the Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division of FAO, Eva Muller, reminded participants of the strong contributions that FAO had made to the work of the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests since its creation, and of the importance to the international arrangement on forests of many of the FAO core activities, such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment. She reaffirmed that FAO would continue to support the Forum, and play a leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, encouraging partnership organizations to work together effectively in a manner that would utilize their distinctive comparative advantages and that would be guided by an agreed workplan.

7. The Vice-President for Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, John Parrotta, explained that the Global Forest Expert Panel's recent scientific assessment of the contribution of forests and trees to food security and nutrition had provided evidence to demonstrate that forests, trees and landscapes could be an integral part of the solution to the global problem of providing 9 billion people with food by 2050. He also referred to the proposed joint forest science-policy interaction platform that had been offered by the Union, and its partners in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Centre for International Forestry Research and the World Agroforestry Centre, as a means of addressing knowledge gaps identified by the future Forum.

8. The Deputy Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of UNDP, Stan Nkwain, explained the role of UNDP as a GEF implementing agency and outlined the way in which it contributed to the UN-REDD partnership. He also highlighted the urgent need to tackle deforestation and forest degradation at all levels, and the contribution that this would make to climate change mitigation.

9. The Permanent Observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Narinder Kakar, explained that the Union worked with partners to build capacity and provide support for the restoration of degraded and deforested lands around the world, adding that it had a global network of 1,269 members in some 160 countries who could leverage support for the implementation of sustainable forest management. He also highlighted the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, which is coordinated by a secretariat hosted at the Union and aims to spread best practice and political awareness of restoration and its benefits.

10. The Programme Officer of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Nandhini Iyer Krishna, highlighted the interaction between land degradation and deforestation, stressing that unsustainable agriculture practices could be a significant drivers of deforestation; in this context, she emphasized the importance sustainable livestock management and the value of agroforestry. She also noted that, while attention was often focused on rain forests, dry land forests were also important, providing a buffer against drought and desertification, a safety net against poverty, biodiversity richness and other vital ecosystem goods and services.

11. Tiffany Hodgson delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Christiana Figueres, explaining that global deforestation accounted for more than 20 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, and that the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Paris later in 2015 would provide an opportunity to advance recognition of the crucial role of forests. Noting that the decisions reached at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw in 2013 had provided methodological guidance for implementing REDD-plus, she explained that six countries, namely Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Malaysia and Mexico, had already submitted forest reference emission levels for technical assessment, as a basis for results-based payments for REDD-plus action. She also highlighted the key role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Standing Committee on Finance in delivering climate finance for forests.

12. Joe Cobbinah, representing the major groups, highlighted the role of major groups in speaking for the marginalized and presenting different perspectives on sustainable forest management. He stressed the importance, for the future international arrangement on forests, of science-based policy, of using networks to help with implementation, of securing adequate means of implementation, including finance, and of capacity-building. He also reiterated the need to strengthen engagement with and participation by all major groups.

13. The themes for the subsequent interactive discussion were the potential for partnerships, regional cooperation and participation to leverage support for the post-2015 international arrangement on forests, and strategies for integrating forests in the broader post-2015 development agenda, including cross-sectoral and landscape approaches. During this discussion, the representative from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) indicated that CITES would be willing to join the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in order to assist more actively in the implementation of sustainable forest management. Other speakers highlighted the important role of members of the Partnership in supporting implementation at national level; the need for adequate means of implementation and the critical part that stakeholders should play in implementing sustainable forest management. In addition, the value of regional processes, and in particular their role in developing criteria and indicators that could be used for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress towards sustainable forest management, was emphasized.

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